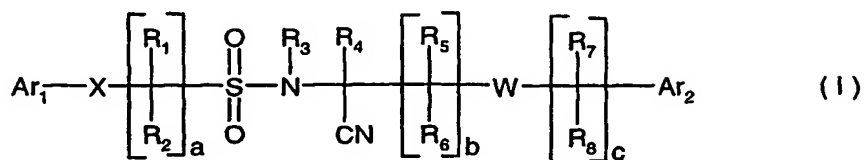


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the general formula



including the optical isomers thereof and mixtures of such isomers, wherein

Ar₁ and Ar₂ independently of each other stand for an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl group,

R₁ and R₂ stand independently of each other for hydrogen, optionally substituted C₁-C₅alkyl, optionally substituted C₂-C₅alkenyl, C₂-C₅alkynyl or optionally substituted C₃-C₆cycloalkyl;

R₃ designates hydrogen, C₃-C₅alkenyl, C₃-C₅alkynyl or optionally substituted C₁-C₅alkyl;

R₄ is optionally substituted C₁-C₅alkyl, optionally substituted C₂-C₅alkenyl, C₂-C₅alkynyl or optionally substituted C₃-C₆cycloalkyl;

R₅ and R₆ are independently of each other hydrogen or optionally substituted C₁-C₅alkyl, optionally substituted C₂-C₅alkenyl, C₂-C₅alkynyl or optionally substituted C₃-C₆cycloalkyl;

R₇ and R₈ are independently of each other hydrogen or optionally substituted C₁-C₅alkyl, optionally substituted C₂-C₅alkenyl, C₂-C₅alkynyl or optionally substituted C₃-C₆cycloalkyl;

W designates a bridge selected from -O-, -S(O)_m- or -NR₃- ;

X designates a direct bond or a bridge selected from -O-, -S(O)_m- or -NR₃- ;

a and b independently of each other stand for a number 1, 2 or 3; and

c and m independently of each other stand for a number zero, 1 or 2.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein

Ar₁ stands for an aryl group which is optionally substituted with n radicals independently selected from R₉ ; or stands for a 5-ring-membered heteroaryl group comprising as ring members 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and being optionally substituted with n radicals independently selected from R₁₁ ; or stands for a 6-ring-membered heteroaryl group comprising as ring members 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and being optionally substituted with n radicals independently selected from R₁₁ ;

Ar₂ stands for an aryl group which is optionally substituted with n radicals independently

selected from R'_9 and from one radical R_{10} ; or stands for a 5-ring-membered heteroaryl group comprising as ring members 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur and being optionally substituted with n radicals independently selected from R_{11} ; or stands for a 6-ring-membered heteroaryl group comprising as ring members 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, and being optionally substituted with n radicals independently selected from R_{11} ; or stands for a fused bicyclic heteroaryl group comprising as ring members 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur, and being composed from the 5-ring- or 6-ring-membered heteroaryl groups as defined for Ar_2 with an annellated phenyl ring or with an annellated second 6-ring-membered heteroaryl, each ring and the bicyclic heteroaryl being optionally substituted with n radicals independently selected from R_{11} ;

R_1 and R_2 stand independently of each other for hydrogen or C_1 - C_5 alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_3 alkoxy or $-NR_{12}R_{13}$; or stand for C_2 - C_5 alkenyl optionally substituted by halogen or C_1 - C_3 alkoxy; or stand for C_2 - C_5 alkynyl; or stand for C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_3 alkoxy; C_1 - C_3 alkyl or $-NR_{12}R_{13}$;

R_3 designates hydrogen, C_3 - C_5 alkenyl, C_3 - C_5 alkynyl or C_1 - C_3 alkyl optionally substituted by C_1 - C_3 alkoxy; C_3 - C_5 alkenyloxy or C_3 - C_5 alkynyloxy;

R_4 is C_1 - C_5 alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_3 alkoxy or $-NR_{12}R_{13}$; or is C_2 - C_5 alkenyl optionally substituted by halogen or C_1 - C_3 alkoxy; or is C_2 - C_5 alkynyl; or is C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_3 alkoxy or C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

R_5 and R_6 are independently of each other hydrogen or C_1 - C_5 alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_3 alkoxy or $-NR_{12}R_{13}$; or are C_2 - C_5 alkenyl optionally substituted by halogen or C_1 - C_3 alkoxy; or are C_2 - C_5 alkynyl; or are C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_3 alkoxy; C_1 - C_3 alkyl or $-NR_{12}R_{13}$;

R_7 and R_8 are independently of each other hydrogen or C_1 - C_5 alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_3 alkoxy or $-NR_{12}R_{13}$; or are C_2 - C_5 alkenyl optionally substituted by halogen or C_1 - C_3 alkoxy; or are C_2 - C_5 alkynyl; or are C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_3 alkoxy; C_1 - C_3 alkyl or $-NR_{12}R_{13}$;

R_9 and R'_9 independently of each other stand for C_1 - C_5 alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, $-NR_{12}R_{13}$, $-CO-R_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-CO-R_{14}$, by a $-X$ -aryl which is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-NR_{12}R_{13}$, $-CO-R_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-CO-R_{14}$; by a $-X$ -linked-5- or 6-ring-membered heteroaryl group optionally substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, $-NR_{12}R_{13}$, $-CO-R_{14}$ or the

acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$; or stand for C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, $=\text{O}$, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $\text{NR}_{12}\text{R}_{13}$; or stand for C_1-C_4 alkoxy optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, by $-\text{X}$ -aryl which is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{NR}_{12}\text{R}_{13}$, $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$; by a X-linked-5- or 6-ring-membered heteroaryl group optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{NR}_{12}\text{R}_{13}$, $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$; or stand for C_2-C_5 alkenyl optionally substituted by halogen or aryl; or stand for C_2-C_5 alkynyl optionally substituted by halogen, tri-alkyl-silyl or aryl; or stand for C_2-C_5 alkenyloxy optionally substituted by halogen or aryl; or stand for C_2-C_5 alkynyloxy optionally substituted by halogen, tri-alkyl-silyl or aryl; or stand for C_3-C_6 cycloalkoxy optionally substituted by C_1-C_3 alkyl, halogen or C_1-C_4 alkoxy; or stand for halogen; or stand for $-\text{NR}_{12}\text{R}_{13}$, or stand for $-\text{NR}_2-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{12}$; or stand for $-\text{NR}_2-\text{CO}-\text{OR}_{12}$; or stand for $-\text{NR}_2-\text{CO}-\text{NR}_8\text{R}_9$; or stand for $-\text{NR}_2-\text{CO}-\text{SR}_{12}$; or stand for $-\text{NR}_2-\text{CS}-\text{OR}_{12}$; or stand for $-\text{NR}_2-\text{CS}-\text{NR}_8\text{R}_9$; or stand for $-\text{NR}_2-\text{CS}-\text{SR}_{12}$; or stand for $-\text{NR}_2-\text{C}(=\text{N}-\text{O}-\text{R}_{12})-\text{S}-\text{OR}_{12}$; or stand for $-\text{NR}_2-\text{C}(=\text{N}-\text{O}-\text{R}_{12})-\text{NR}_8\text{R}_9$; or stand for $-\text{NR}_2-\text{C}(=\text{N}-\text{O}-\text{R}_{12})-\text{SR}_{12}$; or stand for $-\text{S}(\text{O})_p-\text{C}_1-\text{C}_4$ alkyl optionally substituted by halogen; or stand for $-\text{NR}_2-\text{SO}_2-\text{NR}_8\text{R}_9$; or stand for nitro , for cyano or for $-\text{CS}-\text{NH}_2$;

R_{10} stands for hydrogen; or stands for $-\text{X}$ -aryl which is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{NR}_{12}\text{R}_{13}$, $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$; or stands for a X-linked 5-membered aromatic or non-aromatic heterocyclic ring comprising nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur as ring members and being optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{NR}_{12}\text{R}_{13}$, $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$; or stands for a X-linked 6-membered aromatic or non-aromatic heterocyclic ring comprising nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur as ring members and being optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{NR}_{12}\text{R}_{13}$, $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$; or stands for $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$; or stands for $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$; or stands for $-\text{C}(=\text{N}-\text{O}-\text{R}_{12})-\text{R}_{14}$;

R_{10} and one R'_9 together form a 3- or 4-membered non-aromatic bridge forming an annellated ring which may contain a carbonyl function or nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur as ring members and is optionally substituted by C_1-C_3 alkyl;

R_{11} is hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-\text{NR}_{12}\text{R}_{13}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$ or the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of $-\text{CO}-\text{R}_{14}$;

W designates a bridge selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_m-$ or $-\text{NR}_3-$;

X designates a direct bond or a bridge selected from $-O-$, $-S(O)_m-$ or $-NR_3-$;

a stands for a number 1, 2 or 3;

b stands for a number 1, 2 or 3;

c stands for a number zero, 1 or 2;

m stands for a number zero, 1 or 2;

n stands for a number 1 or 2;

p stands for a number 0, 1 or 2;

R_{12} and R_{13} independently of each other stand for hydrogen; C_1-C_5 alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 alkylamino, $di(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)amino, or aryl which in turn is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy or $-CN$; or stand for C_3-C_5 alkenyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 alkylamino, $di(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)amino, or aryl which in turn is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy or $-CN$; or stand for C_3-C_5 alkynyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 alkylamino, $di(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)amino, or aryl which in turn is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy or $-CN$; or together form a 5-ring-membered non-aromatic carbocyclic ring; or together form a 6-ring-membered non-aromatic carbocyclic ring which is interrupted by $-O-$ or $-N(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)- ;

R_{14} stands for C_1-C_5 alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 alkylamino, $di(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)amino; aryl which in turn is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, C_1-C_4 alkylamino, $di(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)amino or C_1-C_4 alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4 alkylaminocarbonyl or $di(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)aminocarbonyl; or by a 5- or 6-ring hetero-aromatic ring which in turn is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, C_1-C_4 alkylamino, $di(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)amino, C_1-C_4 alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4 alkylaminocarbonyl or $di(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)aminocarbonyl; or stands for C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, $=O$, C_1-C_4 alkoxy or C_1-C_4 alkylamino, $di(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)amino; or stands for C_1-C_4 alkoxy optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkoxy; C_1-C_4 alkylamino, $di(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)amino; or stands for phenyl which is optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, C_1-C_4 alkylamino, $di(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)amino, C_1-C_4 alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_4 alkylaminocarbonyl or $di(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)aminocarbonyl; or stands for a 5- or 6-ring membered heteroaryl comprising nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur as ring members and being optionally substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, C_1-C_4 alkylamino, $di(C_1-C_4$ alkyl)amino, C_1-C_4 alkylcarbonyl,

C₁-C₄alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄alkylaminocarbonyl or di-(C₁-C₄alkyl)aminocarbonyl.

3. A compound according to claims 1 or 2 wherein

wherein Ar₁ and Ar₂ independently of each other stand for optionally substituted phenyl; and the optional substituents R₉ of Ar₁ are preferably selected from the group comprising halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄haloalkoxy, C₃-C₆cycloalkyl, -CN and -CO-R₁₄; and the optional substituents R'₉ of Ar₂ are preferably selected from the group comprising halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄haloalkoxy, C₃-C₆cycloalkyl, -CN, -CO-R₁₄, -NR₁₂R₁₃, -NR₂-CO-R₁₂, -NR₃-CO-OR₁₂, -NR₂-CO-NR₈R₉, -NR₂-CO-SR₁₂, -NR₂-CS-OR₁₂, -NR₂-CS-NR₈R₉, -NR₂-CS-SR₁₂, -S(O)_p-C₁-C₄alkyl, -S(O)_p-C₁-C₄haloalkyl, -NR₂-SO₂-NR₈R₉, nitro, cyano and -CS-NH₂; and the optional substituent R₁₀ on Ar₂ is selected from optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted imidazolyl, optionally substituted thiazolyloxy, optionally substituted pyridyloxy, optionally substituted pyridyl, optionally substituted pyrimidinyl, optionally substituted oxadiazolyl, optionally substituted triazolyl, optionally substituted pyrazolyl, optionally substituted oxadiazolyloxy, optionally substituted triazolyloxy and optionally substituted pyrazolyloxy.

4. A compound of formula I according to claim 1 wherein

Ar₁ and Ar₂ independently stand for optionally substituted aryl groups; and the optional substituents R₉ of Ar₁ are preferably selected from the group comprising halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄haloalkoxy, C₃-C₆cycloalkyl, -CN and -CO-R₁₄; and the optional substituents R'₉ of Ar₂ are preferably selected from the group comprising halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄haloalkoxy, C₃-C₆cycloalkyl, -CN, -CO-R₁₄, -NR₁₂R₁₃, -NR₂-CO-R₁₂, -NR₃-CO-OR₁₂, -NR₂-CO-NR₈R₉, -NR₂-CO-SR₁₂, -NR₂-CS-OR₁₂, -NR₂-CS-NR₈R₉, -NR₂-CS-SR₁₂, -S(O)_p-C₁-C₄alkyl, -S(O)_p-C₁-C₄haloalkyl, -NR₂-SO₂-NR₈R₉, nitro, cyano and -CS-NH₂; and the optional substituent R₁₀ on Ar₂ is selected from halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, -CN, -NO₂, -NR₁₂R₁₃, -CO-R₁₄ and the acyclic or cyclic ketals and acetals of -CO-R₁₄; -O-CO-R₁₄, optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted imidazolyl, optionally substituted thiazolyloxy, optionally substituted pyridyloxy, optionally substituted pyridyl, optionally substituted pyrimidinyl, optionally substituted oxadiazolyl, optionally substituted triazolyl, optionally substituted pyrazolyl,

optionally substituted oxadiazolyloxy, optionally substituted triazolyloxy and optionally substituted pyrazolyloxy; and

R₁, R₂, R₅, R₆, R₇ and R₈ independently of each other are hydrogen or methyl; and R₃ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl optionally substituted with C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₃-C₄alkenyloxy, or C₃-C₄alkynyloxy; and

R₄ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄alkyl optionally substituted with halogen, C₁-C₃alkoxy, C₁-C₃alkylamino or di-C₁-C₃alkylamino; and

W is -O-; and

X is a direct bond; and

the suffixes (a) and (b) designate the number 1; and

the suffix (c) stands for the number zero.

5. A compound of formula I according to claim 1 wherein

Ar₁ and Ar₂ independently of each other stand for optionally substituted phenyl; and the optional substituents R₉ and R'₉ of Ar₁ and Ar₂ are selected from the group comprising C₁-C₄alkyl, C₁-C₄haloalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄haloalkoxy and C₃-C₆cycloalkyl; and the optional substituent R₁₀ on Ar₂ is selected from -CO-C₁-C₄alkyl, -CO-C₁-C₄alkoxy, -O-CO-C₁-C₄alkyl, optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted phenoxy, optionally substituted imidazolyl, optionally substituted imidazolyl-oxy, optionally substituted thiazolyl, optionally substituted thiadiazolyl, optionally substituted thiadiazolyl, optionally substituted pyridyl, optionally substituted pyridyl-oxy, optionally substituted pyrimidinyl, optionally substituted oxadiazolyl, optionally substituted oxadiazolyl-oxy, optionally substituted triazolyl, optionally substituted pyrazolyl, optionally substituted triazolyl-oxy and optionally substituted pyrazolyl-oxy; and

R₁ and R₅ are independently C₁-C₄alkyl and R₂ and R₆ are hydrogen; and

R₃ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl or C₁-C₄alkoxy-C₁-C₄alkyl; and

R₄ is C₁-C₄alkyl or C₁-C₄haloalkyl; and

W is -O-; and

X is a direct bond; and

the suffixes (a) and (b) designate the number 1; and

the suffix (c) stands for the number zero.

6. A compound of formula I according to claim 1 wherein; or wherein

Ar₁ and Ar₂ independently of each other stand for optionally substituted phenyl; and the optional substituents R₉ and R'₉ of Ar₁ and Ar₂ are selected from the group comprising bromo, chloro, fluoro, iodo, cyano, hydroxy, amino, nitro, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, allyloxy, propargyloxy, benzyloxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, 2-cyano-2-methyl-butyloxy, methylsulfonyl, methylsulfinyl, methylthio, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, aminocarbonylmethyl, methoximinoethyl, aminocarbonyl, butylcarbonylamino, tert-butylcarbonylamino, triazol-1-ylmethyl, 1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl, N-morpholinocarbonylamino, aminocarbonyloxy-ethoxy, morpholinocarbonyloxyethoxy and cyanopyridyloxyethoxy; and the optional substituent R₁₀ on Ar₂ is selected from aminocarbonyl, dimethylaminocarbonyl, acetyl, propionyl, acetoxyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, methoximinoethyl, 1-imidazolyl, 5-(3-methyl-1,2,4-thiadiazolyloxy), 2-pyridyl, 2-pyridyloxy, 4-pyrimidinyl, 2-(3,5-dichloropyridyloxy), 2-(4,6-dichloropyridyloxy), 2-(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidinylthio), 2-oxadiazolyl, 2-(5-methyl-oxadiazolyl), 2-(5-ethyl-oxadiazolyl), 1-triazolyl, 1-pyrazolyl, 1-(3,4-dimethylpyrazolyl), 4-(2-methylthiazolyl), 2-(1,3,4-oxydiazolyl), N-pyrrolidin-2-onyl, and 2-quinoxalinyll, and R₁ and R₅ are independently C₁-C₄alkyl and R₂ and R₆ are hydrogen; and R₃ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl or C₁-C₄alkoxy-C₁-C₄alkyl; and R₄ is C₁-C₄alkyl or C₁-C₄haloalkyl; and W is -O- ; and X is a direct bond; and the suffixes (a) and (b) designate the number 1 ; and the suffix (c) stands for the number zero.

7. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

Ar₁ and Ar₂ independently of each other stand for optionally substituted phenyl; and the optional substituents R₉ and R'₉ of Ar₁ and Ar₂ are selected from the group comprising bromo, chloro, fluoro, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, trifluoromethyl and trifluoromethoxy; and the optional substituent R₁₀ on Ar₂ is selected from aminocarbonyl, acetyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, 1-imidazolyl, 5-(3-methyl-1,2,4-thiadiazolyloxy), 2-pyridyl, 2-pyridyloxy, 4-pyrimidinyl, 2-(3,5-dichloropyridyloxy), 2-(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidinylthio), 2-oxadiazolyl, 2-(5-methyl-oxadiazolyl), 2-(5-ethyl-oxadiazolyl), 1-triazolyl, 1-pyrazolyl, 4-(2-methylthiazolyl), 2-(1,3,4-oxydiazolyl), and N-pyrrolidin-2-onyl, and

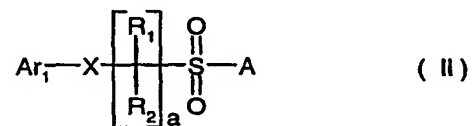
R₁ and R₅ are methyl and R₂ and R₆ are hydrogen; and
R₃ is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, ethoxymethyl or methoxymethyl, and
R₄ is methyl, ethyl, propyl or fluoromethyl; and
W is -O-; and
X is a direct bond; and
the suffixes (a) and (b) designate the number 1; and
the suffix (c) stands for the number zero.

8. A compound of formula I according to claim 1 selected from the group comprising
2-[(4-chlorophenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-chlorophenoxy)-methyl]-2-[(2-chlorophenyl)-methyl]-sulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-chlorophenoxy)-methyl]-2-[(2-fluorophenyl)-methyl]-sulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-trifluoromethoxyphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-chloro-3-methylphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-chlorophenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-chlorophenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-3-methoxy-propionitrile,
2-[(4-acetylphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-methoxyphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-acetylphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-cyanophenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
(-)-2-[(4-cyanophenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-propionylphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-ethoxyphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-[1,2,4]triazol-1-yl-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-imidazol-1-yl-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-cyanophenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-[1,3,4]oxadiazol-4-yl-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-methoxyphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-ethoxyphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
(-)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-[1,2,4]triazol-1-yl-phenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-methoxycarbonylphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
2-[(4-propionylphenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
2-[(4-chlorophenoxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-3-fluoro-propionitrile,

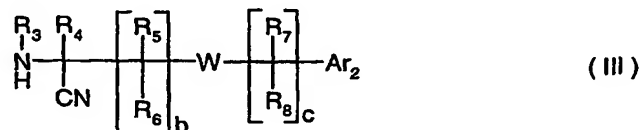
2-[[4-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-phenoxy]-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
 2-[[4-pyrazol-1-yl-phenoxy]-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
 2-(5-oxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-yloxy)-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
 2-[[4-chloro-phenoxy]-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-3-methyl-butyronitrile,
 2-[[4-iso-propyl-phenoxy]-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
 2-[[4-nitro-phenoxy]-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
 2-[[4-cyano-phenoxy]-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile,
 2-[[3-fluoro-4-propionyl-phenoxy]-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile,
 (-)-2-[[4-[1,2,4]triazol-1-yl-phenoxy]-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-butyronitrile, and
 (-)-2-[[4-acetylphenoxy]-methyl]-2-benzylsulfonylamino-propionitrile.

9. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, which comprises reacting

a) reacting the the sulfonylating agent of formula II

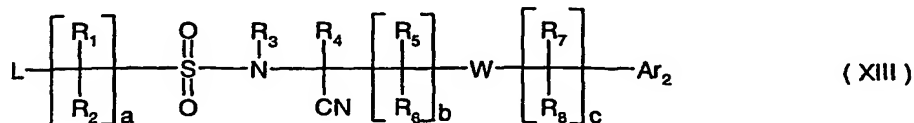


wherein wherein Ar_1 , a , X and R_1 to R_2 , are defined as under formula I, and A stands for a leaving group like an anhydride, i.e. $-\text{O}-\text{SO}_2-(\text{CR}_1\text{R}_2)_a-\text{X}-\text{Ar}_1$ or $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-\text{C}_1-\text{C}_4\text{alkyl}$, but preferably for halogen, especially bromine or more preferably chlorine, with an amino-acetonitrile of formula III



wherein Ar_2 , b , c , W and R_3 to R_8 , are defined as under formula I, or

b) coupling the reacting the compound of formula XIII



wherein Ar_1 , Ar_2 , a , b , c , W and R_1 to R_8 are defined as under formula I and L is a leaving group such as e.g. halogen, preferably chlorine, bromine or iodine or a sulfonyloxy group such as e.g. methylsulfonyloxy-, toluylsulfonyloxy- or trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy- group, is

coupled with a compound of formula XIV



wherein Ar_1 is defined as under formula I and X' is either an anionic radical species of X such as O^- , S^- , $\text{S}(\text{O})_m^-$ combined with an alkaline- or earthalkaline- metal cation as counterion or is defined as X-H such as OH , SH , NHR_3 if at the same time the reaction is generally carried out in the presence of a base such as alkaline-, earthalkaline-carbonates or hydrogencarbonates such e.g. sodium or potassium-carbonate, sodium or potassium – hydrogen-carbonate, cesium-carbonate or an agent capable of scavenging the formed acid.

10. A composition for controlling and protecting against phytopathogenic microorganisms, comprising a compound of formula I according to claim 1 as active ingredient together with a suitable carrier.

11. The use of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 in protecting plants against infestation by phytopathogenic microorganisms.

12.. A method of controlling and preventing an infestation of crop plants by phytopathogenic microorganisms, which comprises the application of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 as active ingredient to the plant, to parts of plants or to the locus thereof.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the phytopathogenic microorganisms are fungal organisms.